

The Texas Star

Newsletter of the
Texas Master Naturalist
Hill Country Chapter

November 2021 Volume 19 Number 11



Fall colors on the Guadalupe - image by Vern Crawford



The November Hill Country Chapter meeting will be a virtual meeting on Monday, November 22, beginning at 6:30.

Amy Hardberger, McCleskey Professor of Law, Texas Tech School of Law, and Director, Texas Tech Center for Water Law and Policy, will speak on “Understanding the Energy Water Nexus.”

To join the meeting, go to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88596485278?pwd=NWV5NFewREFDL3hiR1BnclA3ejerQT09>

Meeting ID: 885 9648 5278 Passcode: 54030

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE...Elsa Roberts

Please plan to attend the November Chapter meeting on November 22. During this important meeting, you will be choosing your new Board Officers for 2022. This will be the last Chapter meeting of the year and will be presented on Zoom only. We have a slate of volunteers who have submitted their names to serve in these positions; however, nominations will continue to be accepted until voting begins. If you would like to submit a name to serve as President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary, please contact the Nominations Committee Chair, Lisa Flanagan, at terlinguagirl@gmail.com. Remember, the person you might wish to nominate must have given prior permission before that name is submitted.

Due to the upcoming holiday season, chapter activities are slowing down a bit so there is not much to report. Since there will not be a chapter meeting or newsletter in December, I want to take this opportunity to wish you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. It has been a privilege to serve as your Chapter President for the last two years. Who could have ever imagined how the pandemic would disrupt everything normal we enjoyed for so long? Your Board members worked hard and long to keep our mission moving forward. They all were willing to learn new things and are continuing to learn how to use the virtual tools that are available today. We are all aware that our first venture into hybrid meetings last month did not go well, but a lot was learned and those who are involved in that process are already working to perfect it.

Our desire is to be able to present our Chapter meetings in-person, on Zoom, and on our Chapter’s YouTube channel all at the same time—not to make it convenient to stay home, but to accommodate our members who don’t drive at night, are ill, or are too far away to come to the in-person event. This will allow all of our members as well as the public to attend and participate, no matter the circumstances.

Thank you for trusting me with the position of your Chapter President for the last two years. I have enjoyed serving you and it has been an experience I will never forget.

From Katy Kappel, Vice President

Volunteer Appreciation Party

Come celebrate with 70 of your Master Naturalist friends at beautiful Camp Capers, on the Guadalupe River in Welfare. There will be tributes, music by Bill Oliver (Mr. Habitat), a silent auction, and lunch. December 4, noon - 3pm; chicken is on the menu, with a vegetarian option; desserts provided by our Board of Directors.

RSVP is required; here is the link:

[Hill Country Master Naturalists: Volunteer Appreciation Party \(signupgenius.com\)](http://signupgenius.com)

The last date to sign up is November 26.

A member has donated a barely used Perception 9.5 foot kayak with paddle and bilge pump for our silent auction. It costs \$450 new. If you cannot attend our December 4 Volunteer Appreciation luncheon, you can email me your early bid, starting at \$100, (katykappel@yahoo.com). Or, delegate a friend to bid for you at the party.

Auction items are still needed. If you are an artist, crafter, or can contribute a gift certificate or tickets, please let me know. Proceeds of the auction will go to scholarships and badly needed technology upgrades.

This Month We Honor



Initial Certification

Patrick Conley, Dot Garlow, Christa Lovett, Denise Stanton

Recertifications

Carla Brady, Teresa Coleman, Cathy Downs, Matt Farmer, Brenda Fest,
Lisa Flanagan, Robin Hale, Lenore Langsdorf, Becky Leal, Bob Lodowski, Linda Miller,
Linda Myers, Susan Parker, Lonnie Phillips, Regina Wheaton, Françoise Wilson

Special Recertifications

Dan Gallaher, Vicki Schmidt, Jeff Schwartz

Milestones

Laura Grant, Diane Gierisch, Regina Wheaton - 250 hours, Bronze Dragonfly

Françoise Wilson - 2500 hours, Polished Silver Dragonfly

From Nancy Scoggins, Treasurer

if you would like to make a donation to the Hill Country Chapter you can do this in a couple of ways. If you would like to pay by credit card, email me, treasurer@hillcountrytmn.org, and I will send you a secure link to pay with. If you would like to mail a check, send it to 105 High Sierra Drive, Boerne, TX 78006. Remember: if you want to claim your donation for your 2021 taxes, you'll need to make sure I have your donation by December 31.



JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL
PLANT PARTY
Riparian Rendezvous

December 15, 2021

FREE, Informal and FUN!

Topics Covered:

- Riparian 101
- Grazing Management in Riparians
- Impacts of Deer on Riparians
- Restoration in the Riparian
- Update on Freshwater Mussels in Texas

Event Details:

Cost: Free
Time: 10 - 11:30 AM CST
To register (this is a virtual event):
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PlantParty5>

GREAT DOOR PRIZES will be given away throughout the party! Register for your chance to win.

For more information:
 Megan.Clayton@ag.tamu.edu
 Tim.Siegmund@tpwd.texas.gov
 Charles.Kneuper@usda.gov



The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

Meet TWO new Pollinator Champions....from the TMN Class of 2021

Nellwyn Sadler and Trudy Eberhardt, both of Kerrville, completed the 2021 TMN New Class training in May, jumped into volunteering, and immediately began transforming their properties into pollinator habitats. It took commitment, understanding their land, and less than six months to achieve the title of Pollinator Champion! *

Two weeks after our May TMN commencement, Nellwyn and her mentor, Sarah Hilburn, met with Sharon Hixson and me for a Pollinator Garden Assistance and Recognition Program (PGARP) site visit. After an amazing amount of tree damage and loss following Storm Uri, she had space for a sunny pollinator garden. Two native plant sales, several trips to Medina Garden Nursery, and five months later, Richard Coleman and I evaluated her transformed front yard, now full of natives like Blue Mistflower, Texas Lantana, Autumn Sage and Copper Canyon Daisy. Her colorful terraced garden included carefully placed native plants, and we loved that Monarchs fluttered past us as we presented the PGARP plaque! I believe Nellwyn's unabashed enthusiasm for realizing her goal fuels the future of her 4.5 acre property, protects and welcomes pollinators, and provides active stewardship in her neighborhood. I bet that future includes more trips to Medina Garden Nursery!

Trudy Eberhardt moved to the Hill Country in October 2019 from New Mexico. Since the May TMN commencement she has volunteered at pollinator gardens in Fredericksburg and Bandera, learning from experienced Native Plant Society and TMN volunteers, and by doing the work in her own yard. Using plant clippings and seeds from her volunteer gardening plus plant sale orders and mindful purchases of natives at the Gardens at the Ridge, Trudy's property has an expansive array of over one hundred native species of trees, plants and grasses. There are habitats everywhere, including frogs in her puddle pond! Talk about diversity! As Richard Coleman and I walked her property, jotting notes as she named the plants, trees and tall grasses, he said, "She knows her plants." Teresa Coleman, Trudy's mentor, and her husband Richard presented the Pollinator Champion plaque to Trudy this week.

Moving the rocks, digging the holes, selecting the proper plants, TLC and hours of physical labor did not stop either of these new TMNs from following their vision to protect our pollinators and share their results with those of us who volunteer with PGARP! A verse taken from the poem (one verse for each chapter of the textbook) Trudy prepared as part of her 2021 Personal Field Trip sums up their heartfelt stewardship:

"I volunteered to learn, to volunteer to
Teach, and now can take what I have learned
To help the owner see what's on
His [my] piece of land that I observed,
And figure ways to make it thrive."

* Pollinator Champions are recognized individuals who use native plants to create habitats for pollinators. The Pollinator Garden Assistance and Recognition (Program <https://txmn.org/hillcountry/pgarp/>) offers site visits to help homeowners create garden plans which meet this program's specifications.



Richard Coleman, Nellwyn Sadler,
Sarah Hillburn



Trudy Eberhardt, Teresa Coleman,
Richard Coleman

From Katy Kappel, Vice President

A Lovely Bequest

In 2016, Master Naturalist Jane Duke lost her father, George Sherman, of Albuquerque, New Mexico. She inherited a number of microscopes from Mr. Sherman, who supplied scientific equipment throughout the state of New Mexico. She has made them available to project leaders who requested them and four have been allocated to the Riverside Nature Center. These will be used by students who participate in KISD Nature Days, and other educational programs at the Nature Center.

Jane is a member of North Texas Master Naturalist Class of 2009. The microscopes were picked up at the TMN Annual Conference in October. Thank you Jane!



Riverside Nature Center Presents
NEd Talk

ALL ABOUT ARACHNIDS

Tuesday, November 16th
@ 1:00 pm
Arthropod Investigation
with Valerie Bugh @ 12:00pm

Spiders become much less mysterious when we know more about them. This program will delve into their intriguing world, examining predator/prey relationships, survival strategies, life histories & identification.

Val is a local naturalist specializing in the arthropods of the Austin area. She runs the Fauna Project at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, leads insect discovery walks, & teaches entomology courses.

\$5.00 SUGGESTED DONATION

Register online at riversidenaturecenter.org
or 830.257.4837

BIRD WALK & TALK

Saturday, November 20th
8 - 9:30am

Meet up at G Street in
the parking lot

Paul & Deloris Sellin will take
you on a birding excursion.

**ALL AGES & LEVELS OF
EXPERTISE ARE WELCOME!**

RSVP: RNG.kerrville@gmail.com or 830.257.4837

riversidenaturecenter.org
150 Parsons Lanes S. Kerrville Tx





From Janis Arterbury

The Bandera Museum's annual Public Monarch Migration Day, Oct 16, was graced by our TMN-Butterfly-Team-of-the-Day, coming in from all over our 11-county spread, at the demonstration table.

Our table included several live Instars at different stages—demolishing milkweed under our eyes—and plenty of plastic reproductions of them, provided by Sarah Hillburn.

As a gracious 'thank you' from the Museum Board, the team was given a private tour of the Museum's amazing interiors.

From left to right, back to front: Alexis McRoberts, Sara Beth Mayfield, Teresa Coleman, Janis Arterbury, Nancy Kerr, Sarah Hillburn.

From Michael Mitchell, Retired Game Warden and an El Camino Real chapter founder, now living in Austin

Recovering America's Wildlife Act Could Bring \$50 Million Per Year to Texas

Nature lovers have enjoyed the benefits of significant federal funding landmarks over the decades. Among those funding achievements are the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (1937), Dingell Johnson Act (1950), and the Endangered Species Act (1973). There is a new initiative of similar landmark proportions. This is a 21st Century wildlife conservation funding proposal.

A nationwide alliance of government, business, and conservation leaders united to combat one of America's greatest natural threats: the decline of our fish and wildlife and their natural habitats. Scientists estimate one-third of wildlife species are at risk of becoming threatened or endangered without additional funding.

Where past funding mechanisms have often focused upon hunted animals, this effort would focus upon preventing more than 12,000 species of fish and wildlife from becoming endangered. Over 1,300 of those species are here in Texas. These are called Species of Greatest Conservation Need. To see a list of them, see https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/nongame/tcap/sgcn.phtml.

Recently, the bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act, H.R. 2773 and S. 2372, was introduced in Congress. The bill would dedicate \$1.4 billion in existing revenues to species and habitat restoration, nature education, and recruiting people into outdoor recreation activities. If passed, Texas could receive about \$50 million annually to implement its Texas Conservation Action Plan, without any increase in citizens' taxes.

For our state, this could mean true transformative change to people and wildlife. It is truly a once-in-a-generation look at how to protect species. It currently costs hundreds of millions of dollars yearly to address our nation's threatened and endangered species. With this funding, it is hoped that more proactive measures could be put into place to protect these resources.

The purpose of this bill is to increase and stabilize funding for states to address these concerns. For more information about the federal bill under consideration, see www.TxWildlifeAlliance.org.

What an exciting time to be alive and see what could improve for a nation's wildlife!

The View from Rusty Bend



The resting of Rusty Bend

Raven Evermore

You can tell how long we've paired
by how we fly, you and I—

rowing past in tandem, blacker than black
then twisting to flash, silvered with sun. Soft muttering,

turning in concert. I know your moves.
I've preened every feather, those small ones round your eyes.

The longer our bond the more perfect
our sky ballet, inches apart,

monogamy made synchrony. Climbing into clouds,
wing-folding into steep stoop, air-dancing,

falling together to pull a sweet glide.
Our world in each other, safe and rich.

Fly with me now, wingtip to wingtip
two hearts drumming a single song.

Ah, October at Rusty Bend, you delight us with your slanted light. Preparing for dormancy, you soothe us with prodigious fogs in the mornings, color shifts each day and cool evenings of shooting stars.

We are encouraged by the reproduction of Leopard Frogs in the little pond and spend evenings speculating upon how they arrived. On the legs of a bird? Somehow in a rainstorm? A whole new biome to watch every day. Their leaps to grab wasps are hilarious. A grasshopper leg sticking on a frog lip can make your whole day. They have gotten used to our comings and goings and watch in a still silence. Of course, they sing at night.

There is something inviting about walks in October. Join me on a scent safari. Feel the warm sun on your skin as we walk along the cliff above the river. See the Giant Swallowtail on his host plant, the Tickle-tongue or Toothache Tree. Dodge the thorns and pick a curly leaf. Crush it and smell an ocean of orange peel. We chewed them as kids, but just once to numb our tongues. Memorable, not tasty.

continued on next page

Now let's bend down a branch of Kidneywood, with its tiny candelabra of white blossoms. Yes, honey and vanilla. Keep strolling. What is that surprising smell? You have stepped on low-growing Dutchman's Breeches. Its foliage sings an anthem of hyacinth.

Let's walk down to the river. Now we are accompanied by the smell of wet limestone, as if we are traversing a cave, the underground above ground.

Here she is, Lady Guadalupe in all her fall finery. The top notes lure you into to a new scent-scape. Bald Cypresses with their piney, almost balsamic tones. Wet needles turning to compost beneath your feet. The definition of dank. Drummond's wood-sorrels peek out in lavender pops. The heart notes down here are a mixture of perch and cedar that stay on the nose and say *I am river*. Lastly, we've come to the huge cottonwoods. Their leaves say cinnamon as they spin on their stalks. They are dry as sandpaper as they murmur their own love letter to October.



Rio Grande Leopard Frogs

Poem, images and essay by Lucy Griffith Copyright 2021

Lucy Griffith, PhD co-manages the Rusty Bend Ranch with her husband, Andy Robinson. She also writes poetry; her muse, a tractor named Mabel. The story of the Burro Lady of West Texas, told in poems, [We Make a Tiny Herd](#), has been awarded the 2020 Willa Literary Award for Poetry as well as the Wrangler Award by the Cowboy Hall of Fame. A joint project of bird poems and images, with wildlife photographer Kenneth Butler, [Wingbeat Atlas](#), can be preordered from www.flowersongpress.com

Comments welcome at lucy@lucygriffithwriter.com.

T E X A S



We meet on the fourth Monday of most months (but not during pandemic) in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Lecture Hall at 125 North Lehmann Drive in Kerrville.

Join us at 6:15 for social time.

The business meeting will begin at 6:30.

The Advanced Training speaker will start at 7:30.

Texas Master Naturalist mission:

To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.

Board of Directors 2021

- Elsa Roberts -- President
- Katy Kappel -- Vice President
- Jeralyn Hathorn-- Secretary
- Nancy Scoggins -- Treasurer
- Deb Youngblood -- Advanced Training Director
- Catherine Gauldin -- Communications Director
- Carla Stang -- Membership Director
- Tom Burke -- Volunteer Service Projects Director
- Sheryl Pender -- 2021 Class Director
- Billy Guin -- 2020 Class Representative
- Lisa Flanagan-- Immediate Past President
- Vern Crawford -- State Representative



Questions about our chapter?

Email Carla Stang

Membership Director

membership@hillcountrytmn.org

The Texas Star is a monthly publication of the Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. News, essays, comments, and ideas are welcome.

Please email them to:

Lenore Langsdorf, Editor
LenoreLangsdorf@gmail.com

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